

### **Amendment to the Claims**

Kindly cancel claims 1-15, 17, 22-36, 38, 43-44, 47-63 and 65, without prejudice, and amend claims 19, 20, 40, 41, 67 and 68, as set forth below. In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format published in the Official Gazette on February 25, 2003, a complete listing of claims is provided herein. The changes in the amended claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Amended) A method of managing the prefetching of inodes associated with files of a directory, said directory comprising one or more directory blocks, and each directory block having associated therewith zero or more files, said method comprising:

detecting a pattern of requests for multiple inodes associated with multiple files of a directory block of said one or more directory blocks, wherein the pattern is based on directory entries of the multiple files being within said directory block, and wherein said directory block has associated therewith a counter and a cache miss threshold, said counter representing a number of inodes associated with said directory block that were requested within a preselected amount of time and were not found in a cache, and wherein said detecting comprises comparing said counter to said cache miss threshold to determine whether said pattern exists; and

prefetching a plurality of inodes associated with said directory block, in response to detecting said pattern.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 18, wherein said prefetching comprises prefetching at least a portion of said plurality of inodes in parallel.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 18, further comprising initiating the prefetching of one or more inodes associated with another directory block of said directory, wherein said initiating is in response to requests for inodes of said directory.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said initiating comprises determining whether a cache hit threshold has been reached, wherein said prefetching of one or more inodes associated with said another directory block is initiated when said cache hit threshold is reached.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

- 24. (Cancelled)
- 25. (Cancelled)
- 26. (Cancelled)
- 27. (Cancelled)
- 28. (Cancelled)
- 29. (Cancelled)
- 30. (Cancelled)
- 31. (Cancelled)
- 32. (Cancelled)
- 33. (Cancelled)
- 34. (Cancelled)
- 35. (Cancelled)
- 36. (Cancelled)
- 37. (Previously Cancelled)
- 38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Amended) A system of managing the prefetching of inodes associated with files of a directory, said directory comprising one or more directory blocks, and each directory block having associated therewith zero or more files, said system comprising:

means for detecting a pattern of requests for multiple inodes associated with multiple files of a directory block of said one or more directory blocks, wherein the pattern is based on directory entries of the multiple files being within said directory block, and wherein said directory block has associated

therewith a counter and a cache miss threshold, said counter representing a number of inodes associated with said directory block that were requested within a preselected amount of time and were not found in a cache, and wherein said means for detecting comprises means for comparing said counter to said cache miss threshold to determine whether said pattern exists; and

means for prefetching a plurality of inodes associated with said directory block, in response to detecting said pattern.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~38~~ 39, wherein said means for prefetching comprises means for prefetching at least a portion of said plurality of inodes in parallel.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~38~~ 39, further comprising means for initiating the prefetching of one or more inodes associated with another directory block of said directory, wherein the initiating is in response to requests for inodes of said directory.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein said means for initiating comprises means for determining whether a cache hit threshold has been reached, wherein the prefetching of one or more inodes associated with said another directory block is initiated when said cache hit threshold is reached.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Cancelled)

46. (Previously Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

- 50. (Cancelled)
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- 61. (Cancelled)
- 62. (Cancelled)
- 63. (Cancelled)
- 64. (Previously Cancelled)
- 65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Amended) At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine, to perform a method of managing the prefetching of inodes associated with files of a directory, said directory having associated therewith one or more directory blocks and each directory block comprising zero or more files, said method comprising:

detecting a pattern of requests for multiple inodes associated with multiple files of a directory block of said one or more directory blocks, wherein the pattern is based on directory entries of the multiple files being within said directory block, and wherein said directory block has associated therewith a counter and a cache miss threshold, said counter representing a number of inodes associated with said directory block that were requested within a preselected amount of time and were not found in a cache, and wherein said detecting comprises comparing said counter to said cache miss threshold to determine whether said pattern exists; and

prefetching a plurality of inodes associated with said directory block, in response to detecting said pattern.

67. (Currently Amended) The at least one program storage device of claim ~~65~~ 66, wherein said prefetching comprises prefetching at least a portion of said plurality of inodes in parallel.

68. (Currently Amended) The at least one program storage device of claim ~~65~~ 66, wherein said method further comprises initiating the prefetching of one or more inodes associated with another directory block of said directory, wherein said initiating is in response to requests for inodes of said directory.

69. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 68, wherein said initiating comprises determining whether a cache hit threshold has been reached, wherein said prefetching of one or more inodes associated with said another directory block is initiated when said cache hit threshold is reached.